



California Water Commission
Groundwater Trading Workplan
May 19, 2021

Today's Meeting

- Present workplan
- Solicit feedback
- Approval of workplan

Context

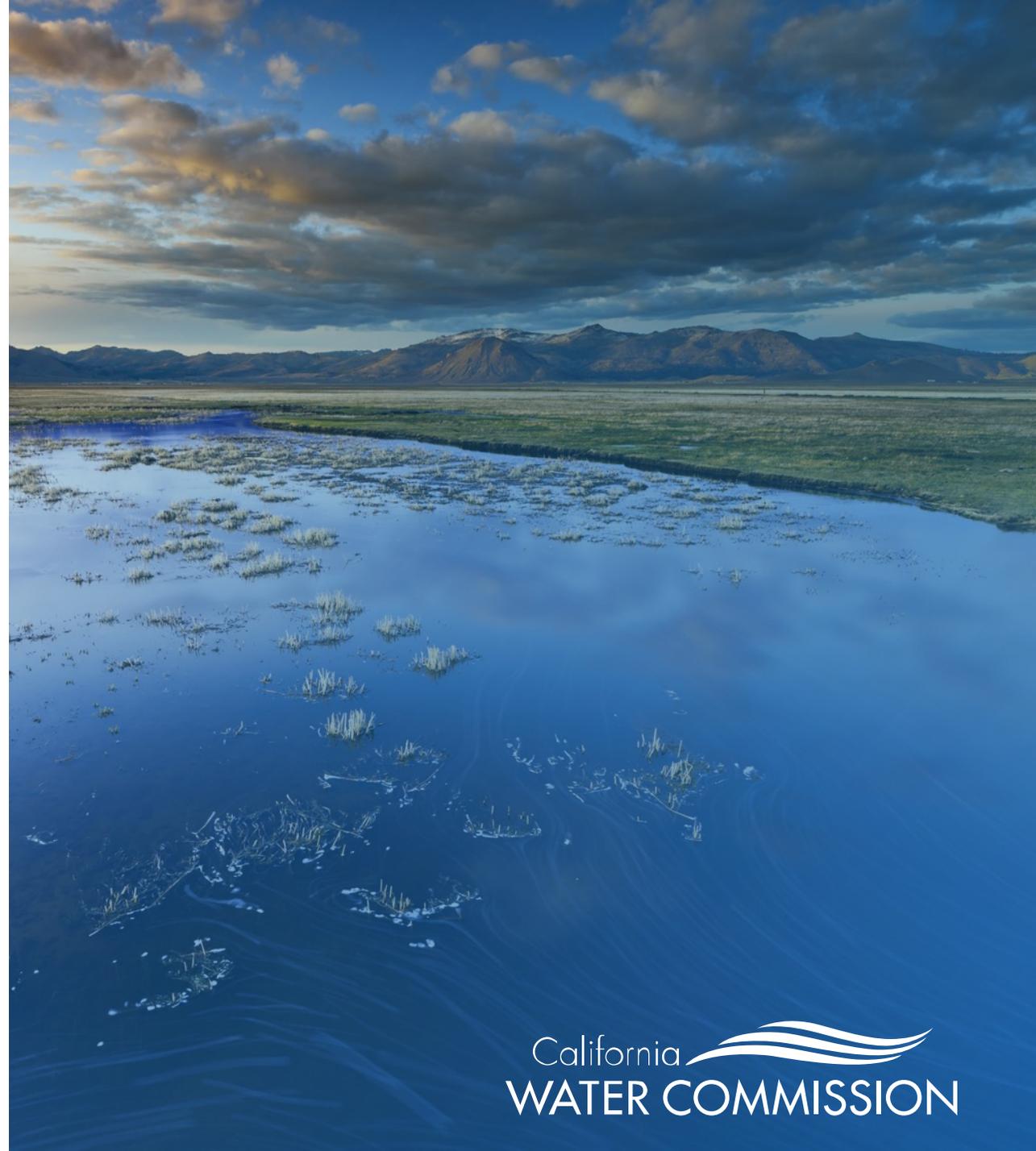
- Commission's work on conveyance
- Water Resilience Portfolio Action 3.6
- March 15th letter from Secretaries of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, Food and Agriculture

Action 3.6

Create flexibility for groundwater sustainability agencies to trade water within basins by enabling and incentivizing transactional approaches, including groundwater markets, with rules that safeguard natural resources, small- and medium size farms, and water supply and quality for disadvantaged communities.

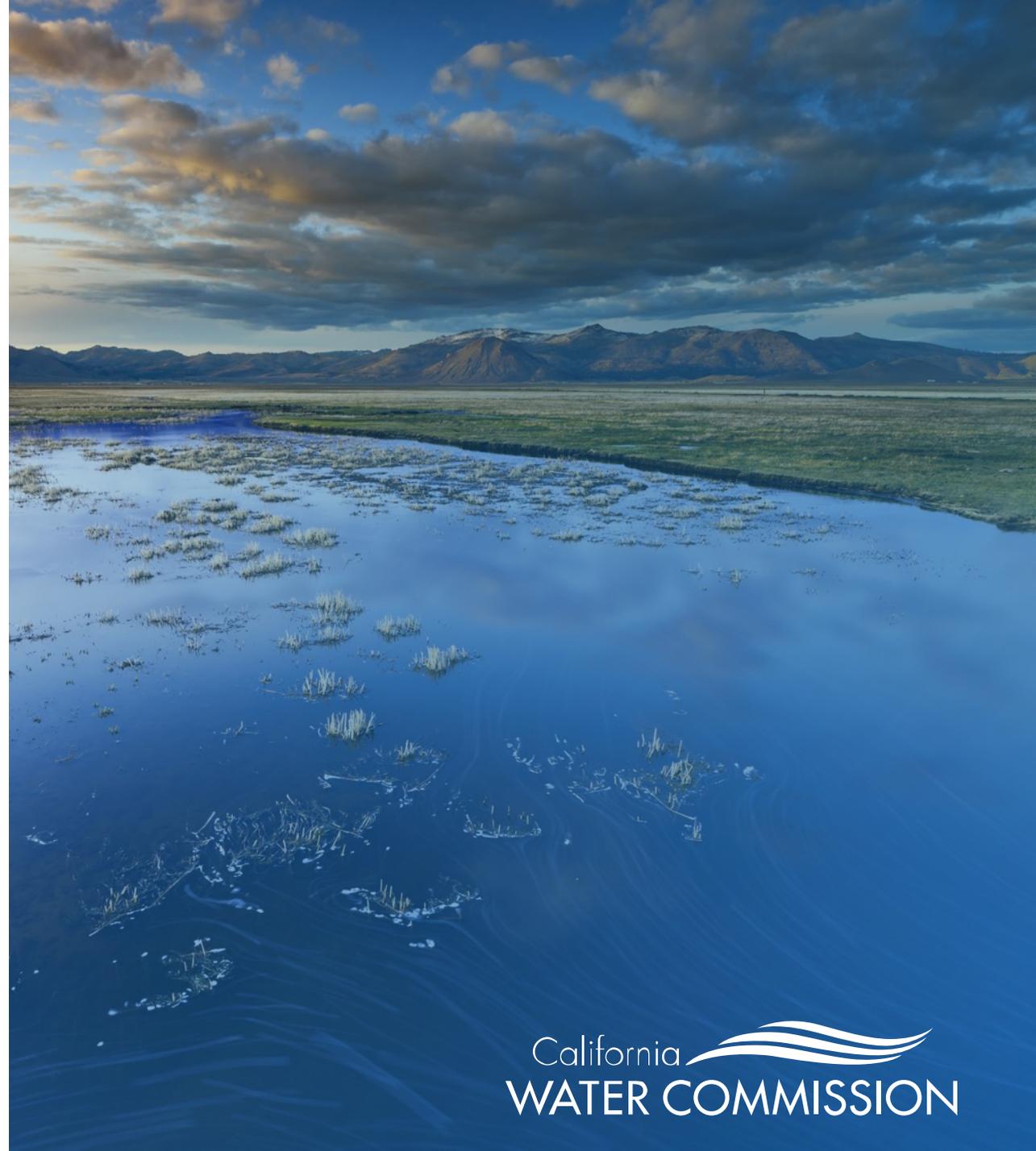
Background

- Groundwater trading as a tool to implement Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- Many Groundwater Sustainability Plans include trading component
- Some Groundwater Sustainability Agencies already developing trading programs
- Need to ensure safeguards for communities, ecosystems, farms



Background

- Groundwater trading is part of three-step process:
 1. Accounting
 2. Allocations
 3. Trading

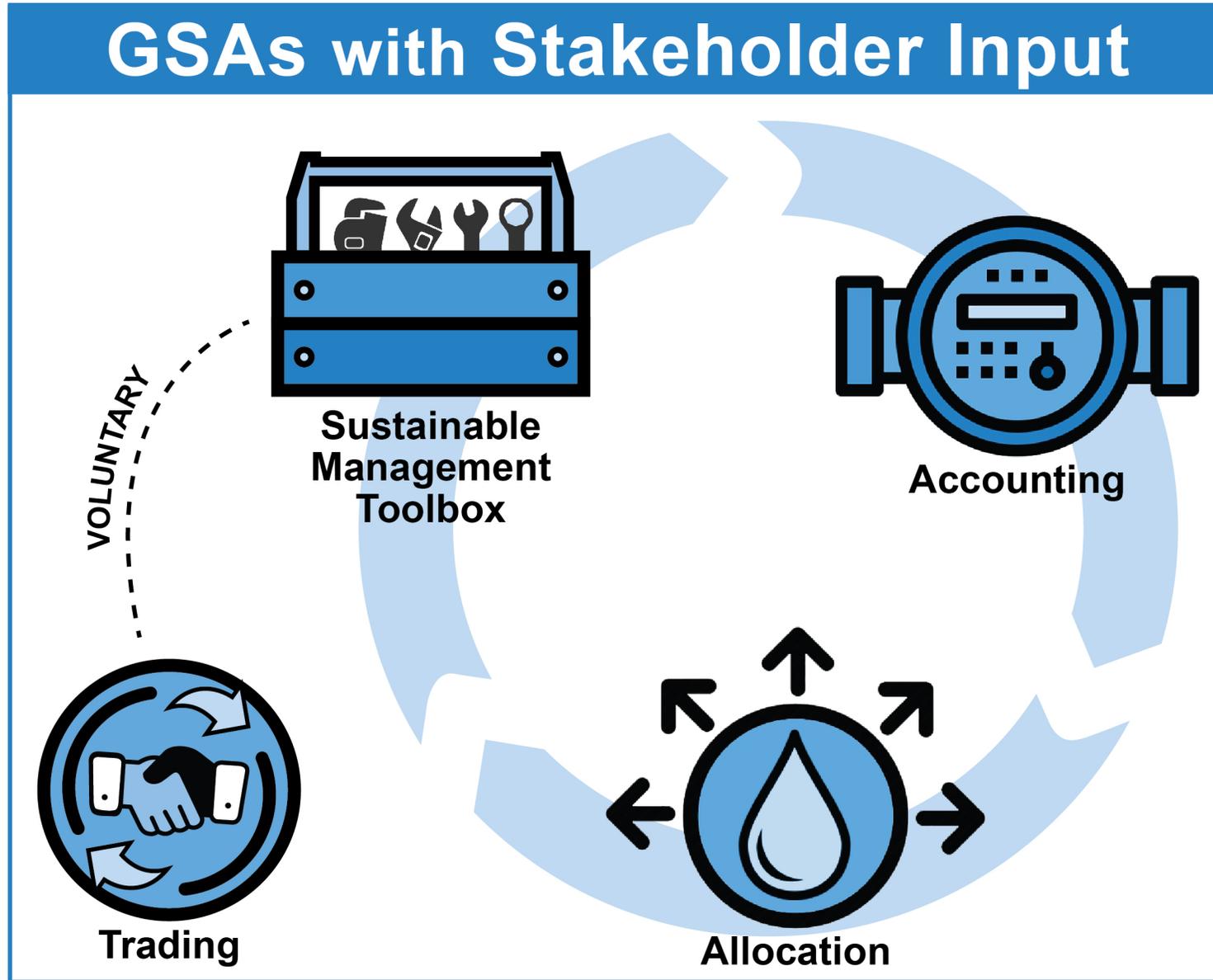


Supporting Well-Managed Groundwater Trading

GSA with Stakeholder Input

Water Commission action:

Public discussions on needed safeguards for well-managed water trading programs in support of Water Resilience Portfolio Action 3.6

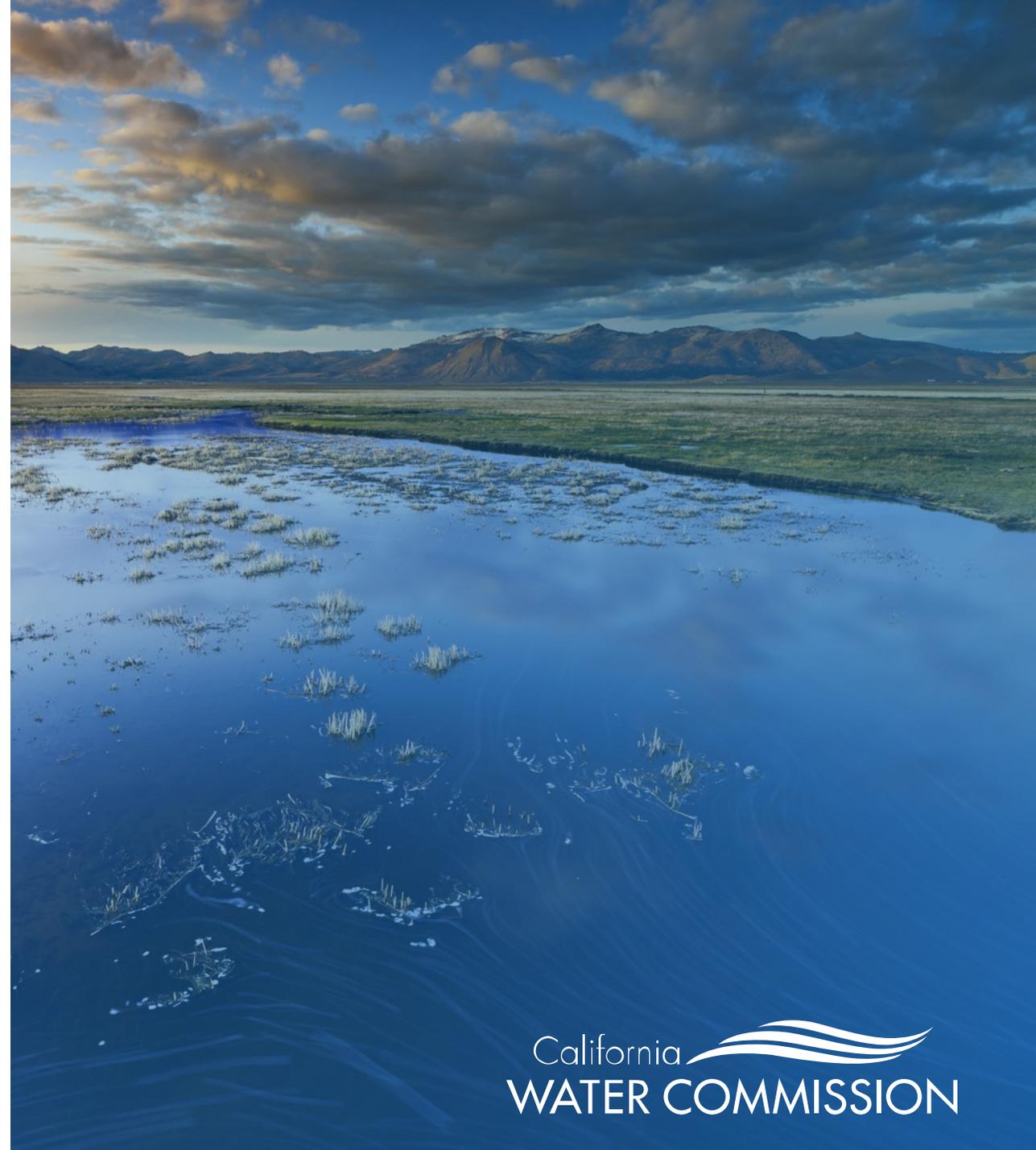


State Agency activity:

- SGMA Data Viewer
Supporting data for water budgets
- Water Budget Handbook
Guidance for consistent water budgets and data collection
- Collaboratively developing a freely available, open source groundwater accounting and budgeting platform
 - ✓ NGO administered
 - ✓ Voluntary use
 - ✓ Compatible with state reporting portals

Commission's Role

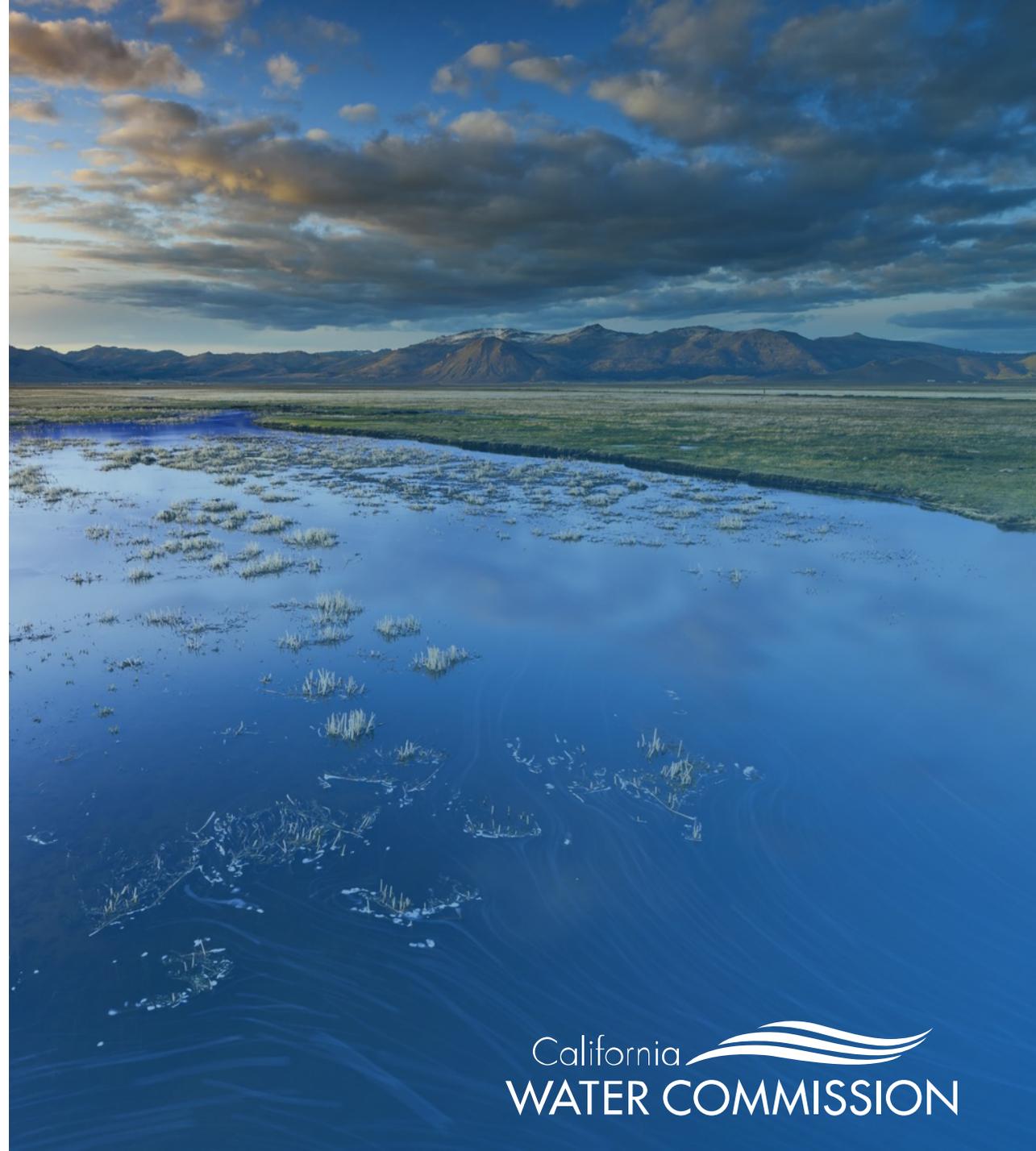
- Hold public conversations
- Focus on safeguards for groundwater trading
- Consider accounting and allocations as it related to trading
- Consider role of the state in groundwater trading
- Develop white paper with guidance for implementing agencies



Workplan

Step 1: Frame the Issue and Establish Working Groups (*May-June 2021*) – staff work

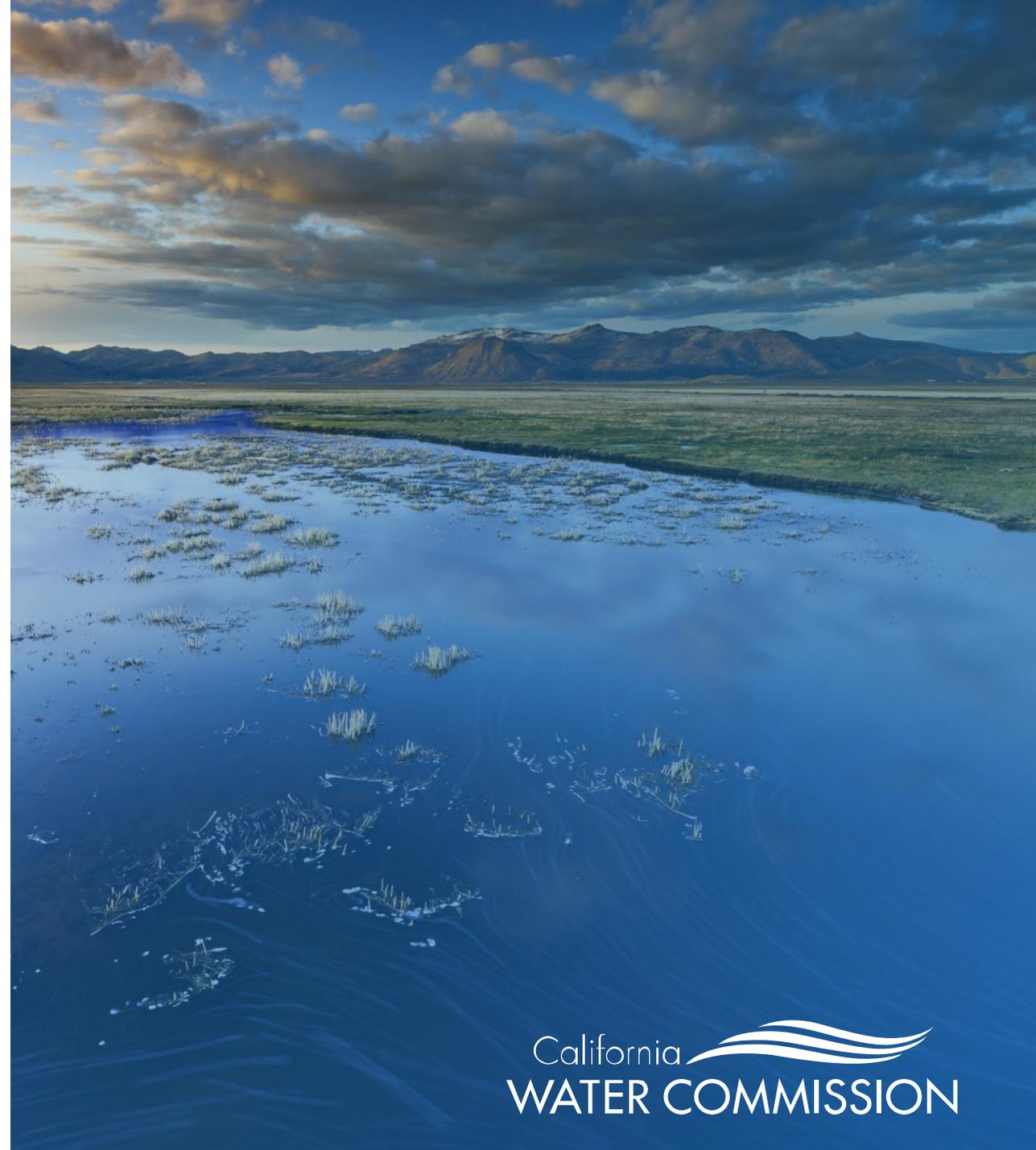
- Convene Small-Group Discussions
- Establish Advisory Group



Workplan

Step 2: Hold Public Discussions (*June-September 2021*)

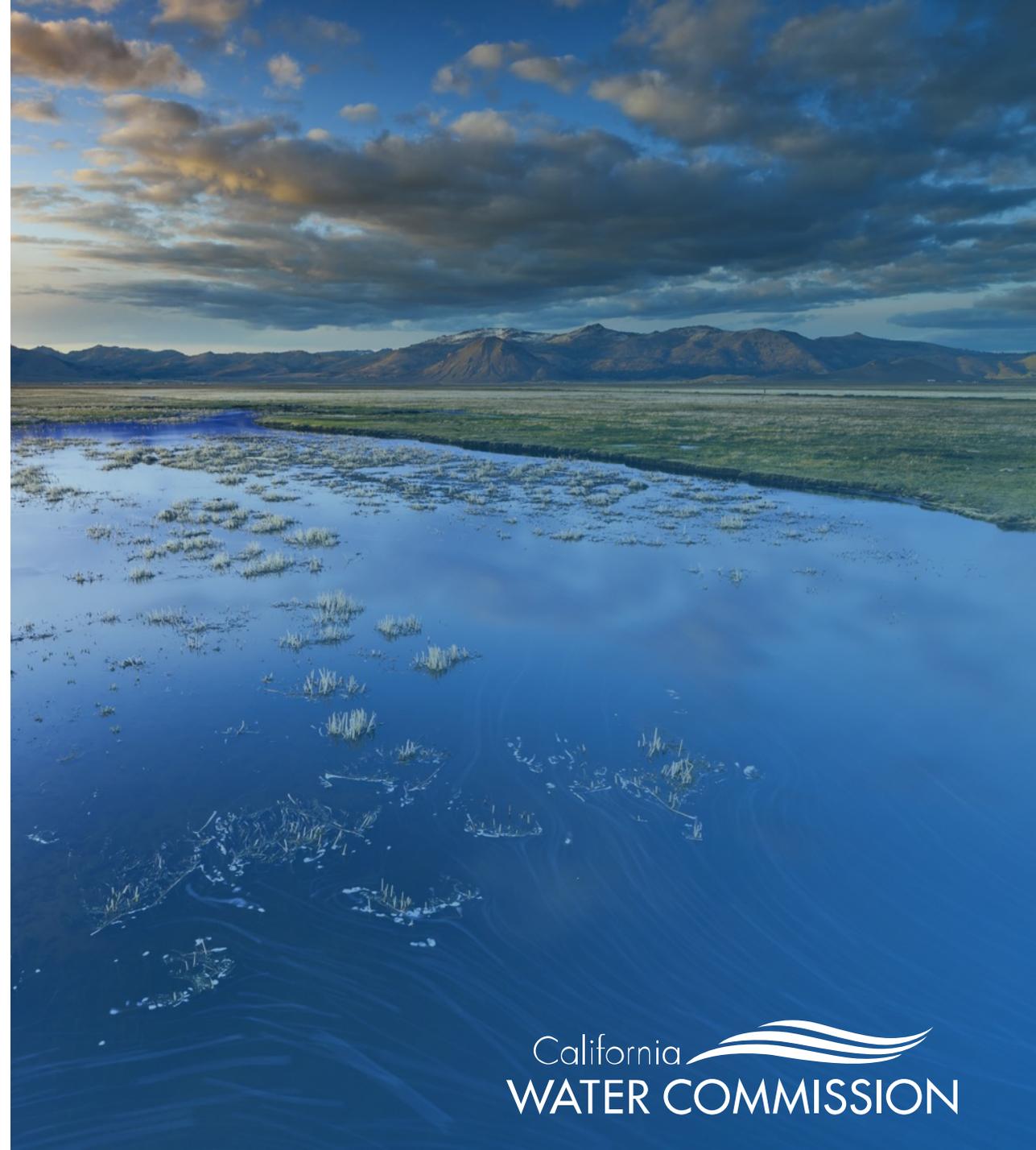
- Invite Expert Panels to present at Commission Meetings
- Engage Stakeholders and the Public at Local Meetings
- Conduct Public Workshops



Workplan

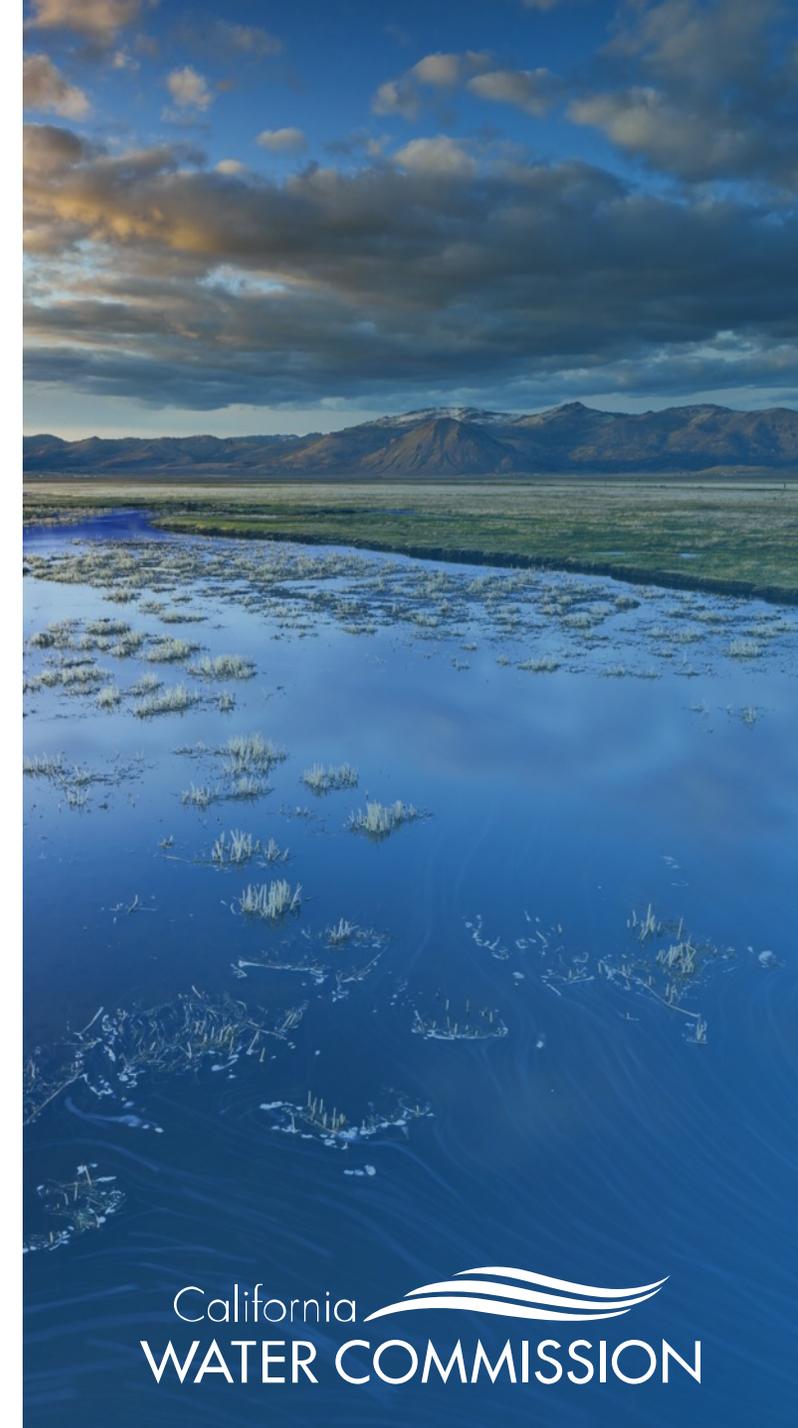
Step 3: Draft Conclusions (*October-December 2021*) – staff work

- October: Review public feedback and discuss with advisory body, state partners.
- November: Present preliminary conclusions to the Commission.
- December: Present final draft to the Commission for approval.



Commission Meeting Schedule

- May – Present workplan to Commission.
- June – Host first expert panel.
- July – Present results of small-group discussions to Commission.
- August – Host second expert panel.
- September – Host third (final) expert panel.
- October – Present results of workshops and roadshow.
- November – Present preliminary conclusions.
- December – Present final draft conclusions.



Commission Decision

The Commission may:

1. Approve the workplan as written
2. Approve the workplan with modifications
→ If either of the above, staff will move forward with implementing the workplan
3. Approve staff's time to engage on this task but refrain from approving the workplan
→ staff will return with a new workplan next month
4. Refrain from accepting the requested task
→ staff will communicate decision to Secretaries

